

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

On Page 1, above line 1, please insert the following paragraphs:

**--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Application No. 102 49 767.2 filed October 24, 2002. Applicants also claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/DE2003/003556 filed October 23, 2003. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English. --

Please replace the paragraph which begins at the bottom of page 8 (line 20) and continues to page 9, with the following paragraph:

-- A three-dimensional fundamental representation of the attachment of the leaf springs 3 on the frame 4 and on the base plate 5 is shown in Fig. 3. The test table 1, with its sample holder 1.1, is merely indicated with a dot-dash line. It sits on two longitudinal supports 2, whereby each longitudinal support 2 is connected with a leaf spring 3 standing vertically, at its two ends, by way of attachment elements 2.1 that are merely indicated. The two longitudinal supports can additionally be reinforced with one another by way of a crosswise support 2.2 (or by way of a plate, not shown), on which the test table sits. The frame 4, which consists of two U-shaped supports 4.1, is disposed on the

base plate 5. Each support 4.1 sits on the base plate ~~4~~ 5 with two vertical shanks 4.2 that are parallel to one another; a horizontal shank 4.3 extends between the two vertical shanks 4.2 of a support 4.1. The upper ends of two leaf springs 3 are attached to each horizontal shank 4.3 of a support 4.1, by means of upper clamping jaws  $S_0$ . --

Please replace the first full paragraph which begins on page 10 (line 10) with the following paragraph:

-- The device for producing the lateral force and the normal force, the indenter, as well as the ~~LVDs~~ LVDTs and the oil damping, are not shown in Fig. 3. --